

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 639

By Cobb J

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Don E. Mathis upon being named 2009-2010 Department Commander, the American Legion, Department of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind in order to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer is Don E. Mathis, who devoted twenty-one years to the United States Marine Corps defending our great Nation from 1954 until his retirement in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mathis truly loves the Corps and takes great pride in the important role he played in protecting our national security, liberty, and freedom; and

WHEREAS, born November 24, 1936, he is a man of integrity who embodies the best of his community; and

WHEREAS, he attended Rhea Central High School in Dayton, and upon graduating in 1954, he joined the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, throughout his extensive career in the Marine Corps, he served with acumen and alacrity, earning the respect, loyalty, and admiration of his men, officers, and commanders for his dedicated and esteemed military record; and

WHEREAS, evincing the utmost professionalism and the greatest integrity throughout his distinguished military career, Don Mathis held numerous assignments and was stationed in several locations throughout the world, including the 2nd Marine Division from 1954 until 1957, and again from 1961 until 1964; Japan from 1958 until 1961; Vietnam from 1965 until 1966, and again from 1968 until 1969; Camp Pendleton, California, from 1966 until 1968; 6th Marine Corps District, Atlanta, Georgia, from 1969; until 1973; 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, from 1973 until 1974; and Headquarters United States Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., IG Team, from 1974 until 1975; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the military for twenty-one years with distinction, Don Mathis retired in 1975 as a Major; during his retirement from the military, he joined Kayser-Roth Hosiery Company and later Robinson Manufacturing Company, before serving as the Rhea County Veterans Service Officer for twenty-three years until his retirement in 2008; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his community, Mr. Mathis is affiliated with a number of civic and military organizations, lending to each his leadership and integrity; and

WHEREAS, holding active membership for over thirty-three years in Brady-Williams American Legion Post 100, he has held various leadership positions, including serving as the Local Post Commander, the Local Post Adjutant-Finance Officer, and the Local Post Service Officer; and

WHEREAS, the list of achievements by Mr. Mathis is voluminous, he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism and ability while serving on the state level of the American Legion as State Department Rehabilitation Chairman, Department Service Officer, Third District Commander, East Tennessee Vice Commander, Department Membership Chairman, and the Member Department Award and Trophy Committee; and

WHEREAS, his friendship and counsel are highly valued by his associates while he currently serves several national appointments for the American Legion, including the National Legislative Council and as a member of the National Veterans Administration and Rehabilitation Division for Region Three; and

WHEREAS, from 1997 until 2006, he provided exemplary service and guidance while fulfilling his appointment by the Governor to serve on the Tennessee State Veterans Home Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, offering his exceptional leadership to several community organizations, he was a member of the Board of Directors for the Dayton Golf and Country Club and he served on the Rhea County Bi-Centennial Committee; and

WHEREAS, making a lifetime commitment to advocating on behalf of military veterans, he also currently serves as Commander of Veterans of Foreign Affairs (VFW) Post 4708 as well as Executive Director of the Rhea County Veterans Coordinating Committee; and

WHEREAS, all of his esteemed accomplishments aside, he is most proud of the love and companionship of his beloved wife, Hiroko; and

WHEREAS, Don E. Mathis has shown individual courage and gallantry throughout his career, ever willing to sacrifice his personal safety and concerns for the enduring freedom of his country and the preservation of the ideals that forged this great Nation; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Don E. Mathis upon being named 2009-2010 Department Commander, the American Legion, Department of Tennessee, applaud his meritorious service to our honorable military veterans, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.